മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ *(Ezhuvas North)*.—ഈ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾക്കു കാരണക്കാരായിട്ടുള്ള ശിപായിമാരേയോ മറ്റോ ഗവൺമെൻറു സ്ഥലം മാറ്റിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Excise Commissioner)*.—We are used to transfer peons occasionally and some of these peons and some other peons of this range also were transferred.

Arrack shops—Mattancheri—auction of.

274. **Mr. M. V. Cherian** *(Mattancheri South)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Mattancheri range arrack shops have been auctioned this year for 1113, and if so, please state the highest bid amount and the name or names of the highest bidder;

(b) whether the highest bidder was given the shops auctioned; if not given, please state why they were not given;

(c) whether any tenders were called by public notification; if not, why it was not so done;

(d) whether any private tenders are obtained; if so, who obtained them;

(e) what are the tender amounts and their respective dates and please state the names of the tenderers with the amounts tendered noted against each?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Excise Commissioner)*.—(a) The shops in question were put up to auction twice (on 4th Edavam 1112 and 28th Edavam 1112) after notifying in the Gazette, but since there were no satisfactory bids, they were not knocked down in the name of anybody. The highest bid amount was Rs. 15,120 for all the shops of the range together and one K. S. Krishnan was the highest bidder.

(b) No, because the bid amount was too low.

(c) No, because it is not usual to do so in such cases. The sale had been duly notified in the Gazette, and all intending purchasers given ample opportunity to secure the shops for reasonable amounts.

(d) Tenders were taken by the then officiating Commissioner and the officiating Inspector, Southern Circle.

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(e) Name of tenderer.	Amount of tender. Rs.	Date of tender.
1. Messrs. V. P. Kannu Pillai, E. S. Madai and M. Elias jointly	16,025	28—10—1112
2. Messrs. I. A. Ayyan and K. S. Krishnan jointly	16,250	30—10—1112
3. Mr. V. P. Kannu Pillai	16,300	30—10—1112

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Who is this gentleman, Mr. Kannu Pillai? I should think he is the Municipal Chairman of Mattancheri.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Was this auction conducted in Mattancheri and are the shops situated within the Municipality?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—The auction was conducted in the Municipal area. Some of the shops are within the Municipal area.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Are we to understand that the Municipal Chairman has taken all these shops?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—He has tendered for them.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Do the Government think it proper to allow the Municipal Chairman of a Town to take all the arrack shops within his municipality over which he has control?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—Rules do not prohibit it.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Does it agree with the sense of propriety?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—It is a matter of opinion. Rules do not prohibit it.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Of course when there are no rules we have to make rules. I only want to bring to the

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notice of the Government and the House that considering the peculiar position of the Chairman of a Municipality, his taking on contract over all the toddy shops or the arrack shops is a thing which should not be allowed. Now sometimes there will be disputes between a shop owner and the Municipality, or between the Municipality and Government regarding the location of a shop. Is it proper that the Chairman of that Municipality should be the contractor of such shops? That is my question. I only suggest to the Government to think about the matter.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Is not the Chairman consulted in the matter of location of shops?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Excise Commissioner).*—Yes.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—May I know, Sir, from the then Excise Commissioner and now Joint Secretary to Government, at what time of the day this tender for Rs. 16,250 by Messrs. I. A. Ayyan and K. S. Krishnan was placed at the hands of the Commissioner?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—I do not recollect the exact time.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Am I right in saying that it was at 9 p. m. in the night that the tender was placed in his house?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—It was on an evening at about 6 o' clock.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—May I know at what time of the day did Mr. Kannu Pillai place his tender?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—I do not recollect.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Was it after 6 o' clock or earlier?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—I have answered the question.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—May I know whether the tender amount of this I. A. Ayyan and Krishnan

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was disclosed to the Circle Inspector or Sub-Inspector of the place?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—The Circle Inspector was also present when the tender was placed.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—Was it not through a vakil that the tender of I. A. Ayyan and Krishnan was placed? Was the tender amount disclosed to the Circle Inspector?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—The Circle Inspector was informed of the tender amount.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Was it not after that this Rs.50 increase was made in the tender of Mr. Kannu Pillai and will I be right when I say that it was an ante-dated tender?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—I do not recollect.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Will the present Excise Commissioner say that the tender was initialled on the 30th?

Mr. President.—It was the Joint Secretary who gave the answer that he did not recollect.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Did you receive it on the 30th?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Excise Commissioner).*—I must refer to the file.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Will the present Excise Commissioner be in a position to say whether the tender was initialled by the officiating Commissioner on the 30th?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—I have not looked into that point.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—Will the present Excise Commissioner say whether Messrs. Ayyan and Krishnan were not old licensees for a good number of years of these arrack shops?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—They were. But then there is also another point which I should,

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mention to this House. The House need not be under the impression that it was solely on the initiative of Mr. Kannu Pillai that we had to give this tender to him. As a matter of fact the Department had to approach several people to beat the combination and in one sense I would even say or go to the extent of saying that Mr. Kannu Pillai obliged this department at that juncture. That is the real truth, I have to say. I have been reliably informed by the subordinate officers that it is not true that it was solely on the initiative of Mr. Kannu Pillai. The Department had to approach several of these people. If we want the money that we ought to get we have to do some such thing. Nor was it the only object. You cannot always go according to the very strict procedure that have to be in force in these auctions and tenders. You have to look at both the aspects of the case. I might say that it was partly to oblige the department that Mr. Kannu Pillai gave this tender. The same thing happened in Trichur also.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—Whether he did not remit the earnest money on the very day of auction?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—He might have. That does not affect the situation.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—Did the Government enquire whether there were other tenderers to tender bigger amounts? Suppose there were other people who would tender for bigger amounts could they not have been given? This tender of Messrs. Ayyan and Krishnan for Rs. 16,250 was submitted at 9 o'clock and a bigger tender for a sum which is no more than a sum of Rs. 50 is found to be accepted. Further from the answer it is found that on 28-10-12 Mr. Kannu Pillai has given his tender for Rs. 16,025. But on the 30th another tender from Mr. Kannu Pillai for Rs. 16,300 is taken. I wanted to elucidate when the tender of Mr. Kannu Pillai was given but the Commissioner is not in a position to say when. My further suggestion that it was antedated is not also disputed. For a paltry sum of Rs. 50 the tender is given to Mr. Kannu Pillai, who was an original tenderer. If he were a fresh tenderer we could have understood. What I submit is these old contractors might have been informed of Mr. Kannu Pillai's tender.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Excise Commissioner*).—I might as well explain to the House the real circumstances. Messrs. Ayyan and Krishnan who were present at the time of auction were not prepared to offer more than Rs. 15,000. Most

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probably this tender itself was given by them because they knew that there was no tender for more than Rs. 16,000. Therefore you cannot always go by the figures alone. So many things happen. It is always the duty of the department to see that the largest amount possible is received by the Department. We should not begin to suspect because so and so were not given information they did not offer more and all that.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—They would have offered Rs. 16,500. Yeu gave information only to a particular man. In the interests of the department also these should have been informed of the tender amount of Mr. Kannu Pillai.

Mr. President.—These people have to be taught by the Government in some cases. It is for that this was done.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—If there was a notification inviting tenders we could have received Rs. 18,000.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Is there not a provision for calling for sealed tenders?

Mr. President.—Even if that is done, there will be these combinations. And to beat such combinations, Circle Inspectors go about and persuade the people.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—When we approached these people they refused to revise their offer and I asked my Sub-Inspector to approach some other person.

Mr. M. V. Cherian (*Mattancheri South*).—It would have been proper to have instructed your sub inspector to go to other persons, not only Mr. Kannu Pillai. My only point is that if sealed tenders had been invited by a notification Government would have got a bigger amount and there would have been no such complaints as this.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—These old shop keepers even then would dupe the Government by trying to get the contract at a lower rate by combinations.

Supplementary Demands—1112.

275. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon** (*Chittur Rural*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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